



NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS COUNCIL

CHARTER

I. Mission

The Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) Council of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was established by the NOAA Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere in 1999 to increase NOAA's interactions with minority serving institutions, namely Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions and Tribal Colleges and Universities. The Council's goals are to 1) increase capacity and collaborative research between NOAA and minority-serving institutions, 2) increase the number of minorities educated in the NOAA-related sciences, and 3) increase the number of minority scientists employed by NOAA.

II. Background

The Council was formed to address the dramatic under-representation of minorities receiving degrees in the NOAA-related sciences. Statistics from the National Science Foundation show that of the 17,347 doctoral degrees granted in NOAA-related sciences in 2000 (the most recent data available as of July 2002), 1.9 percent were granted to African Americans, 2.3 percent were granted to Hispanics, and 0.3 percent were granted to American Indians and Alaska Natives. Furthermore, NOAA statistics indicate that 3.8 percent of scientists and engineers employed by NOAA are African Americans, 1.8 percent is Hispanics, and .25 percent is American Indians and Alaska Natives. In contrast these groups make up 26 percent of the U.S. population (African Americans, 12.3 percent, Hispanics, 12.5 percent, and American Indians and Alaska Natives 1.2 percent).

NOAA has focused on building capacity and collaborative research relationships at MSIs as the primary means to increase the representation of minorities since MSI's have a proven track record of graduating minorities with degrees in the NOAA-related sciences with approximately 40 percent of minorities receiving their undergraduate degrees from MSIs. To achieve this goal, NOAA established the Education Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions (EPP/MSI). This program includes four Centers of Excellence at MSIs that focus in the areas of atmospheric, oceanic, and environmental sciences and remote sensing. It also includes an Environmental Entrepreneurship Program and a Graduate and Undergraduate Scholarship Program. A key measure of success for this program is the number of minority students graduating with degrees in the NOAA-related sciences. Another key measure of success will be an increase in the number of minority scientists working at NOAA.

III Objectives

The MSI Council will coordinate the activities of NOAA Line and Staff Offices to support current interactions with MSIs and the expansion of those interactions. The Council will also make recommendations for improvement in the following areas:

- A. Funding opportunities for MSIs;
- B. Participation by MSI faculty and staff in NOAA activities including inter-personnel agreements (IPA's), faculty/staff exchanges, competitive review panels, and summer research opportunities.
- C. Participation in teaching and collaborative research by NOAA employees at MSIs;
- D. Providing a forum to communicate and assess the impact of new programs, legislation, procedures, and policy changes at MSIs.

IV Membership

NOAA membership will be:

- I. Deputy Assistant Administrator, Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

- II. Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service
- III. Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Weather Service
- IV. Deputy Assistant Administrator, Satellite, Data and Information Service
- V. Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Ocean Service
- VI. Deputy Director, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations
- VII. Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance and Administration
- VIII. Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Finance and Administration
- IX. Deputy Director, Program Planning & Integration
- XI. Office of Civil Rights

Alternates may attend meetings in the event the appointed Council member is unable to attend.

V Officers

The MSI Council will operate under the auspices of the NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR). The Council is chaired by the Deputy Assistant Administrator for OAR. The Director of the Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions Office will act as Executive Secretariat.

VI Meetings

Meetings will be conducted quarterly. Members will present agenda items to the Executive Secretariat prior to quarterly meetings, but no later than three days prior to the meeting. The Executive Secretariat will distribute the final agenda at least one day prior to Council meetings.

VII Finding and Recommendations

The MSI Council has broad advisory capacities to improve the interaction of NOAA with minority serving institutions. Findings and recommendations will be documented “Actions” in the minutes. Members charged with Actions will update the Council on the status of the MSI Council’s recommendations at the following meeting, or within a designated time frame.

The Executive Secretary will distribute copies of the minutes to all members two weeks following each meeting.

VIII Working Groups

Ad hoc groups or subcommittees may be formed, as required, to carry out Council activities. These groups will consist of Council members, other NOAA employees and outside participants, as appropriate. Outside experts and volunteers may be identified to address specific topics in these groups. At the conclusion of its specific assignment each ad hoc group will automatically disband.

IX Charter Amendments & Review

This charter may be amended by a two third majority of the MSI Council members, and will be reviewed every three years.